

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Final Office Action (Paper No. 18 of the application) dated August 27, 2003, claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-21, 23, 25 and 28-32 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 15, 22, 26 and 33-34 have been amended in this action. Claims 6, 15, 22, 24, 26-27 and 33-35 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-21, 23, 25 and 28-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 5,652,450 to Hirano, JP 09321156 to Takeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,650,344 to Ito et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,654,577 to Nakamura et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,242,773 to Thomas, and U.S. Patent No. 4,688,063 to Lu et al. Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's rejections. However, to expedite prosecution, applicant has canceled these claims without prejudice to further prosecute these claims.

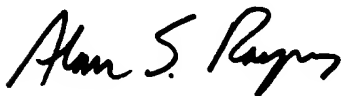
Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 6 and 24 were allowed and that claims 15, 22, 26-27 and 33-35 would be allowable if rewritten. Applicant has rewritten claims 15, 22, 26, 33 and 34 in independent form. Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and claim 35 depends from claim 33. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6, 15, 22, 24, 26-27 and 33-35 are in patentable form.

In the comments regarding allowable subject matter the Examiner provided various reasons for the allowable subject matter. Applicant notes that the claims are directed to various combinations of features. It is respectfully submitted that the patentability of each of the allowed and allowable claims resides in the combination of features recited in that claim in addition to any features noted by the Examiner.

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 6, 15, 22, 24, 26-27 and 33-35 are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If, for any reason, this application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to

telephone the undersigned to discuss the steps necessary to place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



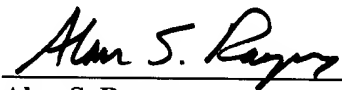
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Dated: *Nov. 28, 2003*

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on Nov. 28, 2003.



Alan S. Raynes

November 28, 2003
(Date)